

Rossi and Tassone *BMC Geriatrics* 2010, **10**(Suppl 1):L45
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2318/10/S1/L45>



LECTURE PRESENTATION

Open Access

The role of the oncologist

M Rossi*, P Tassone

From de Senectute: Age and Health Forum
Catanzaro, Italy. 5-7 December 2009

Several oncological and hematological malignancies may present with bone disease. Clinical manifestations of bone disease are mainly osteolytic and /or osteoblastic skeletal lesions. Preclinical models both in vivo and in vitro have been developed to study tumor cell biology within bone microenvironment and have allowed investigators to better understand pathogenesis of neoplastic bone disease. These studies represented the basis to design targeted drugs that were able to restore normal bone microenvironment and turnover. Among these drugs, bisphosphonates (BPs) are the current mainstay of bone disease treatment. Indeed, BPs have been shown to be very efficient drugs, and are able to revert neoplastic bone turnover. However, BPs may have important toxicity and among the main side effects, we recognize osteonecrosis of the jaw. Because of these sequelae, international oncology societies and networks have suggested clinical guidelines to allow clinical oncologists to use these drugs in order to obtain the best results with least toxicities. Furthermore, prevention and treatment strategies of BP side effects can be best achieved through close interaction with other related clinical practitioners such as the dentist and maxillofacial surgeon.

Published: 19 May 2010

doi:10.1186/1471-2318-10-S1-L45

Cite this article as: Rossi and Tassone: The role of the oncologist. *BMC Geriatrics* 2010 **10**(Suppl 1):L45.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit



Onco-Hematology Unit, Magna Graecia University and T. Campanella Cancer Center, Catanzaro, Italy



© 2010 Rossi and Tassone; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.